



Modoc County Children and Families Commission

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2002/2003**

**Modoc County Children and Families Commission
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MODOC COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2001-2003

6/02 From Strategic Plan Approved 11/01

Mission Statement

The Modoc County Children and Families Commission (a.k.a. Proposition 10 Commission) seeks to enhance existing programs and assist in development of new programs, which nurture the physical, social-emotional, and educational growth of children to the age of five.

Brief History of Modoc County Children and Families Commission

1. Organization

In November 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, The California Children and Families First Act of 1998, a statewide ballot initiative. Effective January 1, 1999, Proposition 10 added a fifty-cent tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products for the purpose of promoting, supporting and improving the early development of children prenatal to five years of age.

Proposition 10 mandated the development of a State Commission and individual county commissions to oversee allocations from the total tax collected. Twenty percent (20%) of the funds collected are given to the State Commission and eighty percent (80%) are distributed to the county commissions based on each county's number of live births. Based on approximately eighty (80) live births per year, Modoc County receives \$200,000.00 in revenues exclusive of monies earmarked for travel (\$7,575.00) and administration and implementation (\$115,000.00).

In order to allocate funds, a local county commission must be established. Ordinance 321 developed by the Modoc County Board of Supervisors established the Modoc County Prop 10 Commission. On January 5, 1999, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 321 commencing with section 8.40.010 officially creating the Modoc County Children and Families First-Proposition 10 Commission. The Ordinance was subsequently amended on March 21, 2001 (Ordinance 321-A) which changes dropped the word First from the title, changed the sections on membership and composition, changed who could make recommendations to fill Board vacancies, and identified the Commission as a "public entity separate and distinct from the County of Modoc".

As outlined in the Modoc Ordinance, the purpose of the local commission is to "facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development. This system should function as a network that promotes accessibility to all information and services from any entry point into the system. It is further the intent of this ordinance to emphasize local decision making, to provide for greater local flexibility in designing delivery systems and to eliminate duplicate administrative systems."

2. Original Three Focus Areas

Once the Commission was established, it developed an infrastructure that would support the improvement of services for expectant parents, children from the prenatal stage up to age five and their families in Modoc County. This entailed the adoption of a mission statement, bylaws and the Commission's first strategic plan.

The original three focus areas of the first strategic plan were as follows:

1. Child Health and Wellness
2. Early Child Development
3. Education and Support for Families

3. Current and Past Projects and Programs Funded

Three programs were funded under the first strategic plan. The Perinatal Outreach Education Program (POE) and education/referral based program that serves all woman of childbearing age in the county with outreach including one-on-one assessments, education and interventions and a variety of educational materials and formats was funded for twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

The Breastfeeding Program (BFP) that promotes breastfeeding, education and support to women who are pregnant and/or have just delivered was funded for five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

The Children's Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) a payer of last resort for children 0-5 who do not qualify for other medical or health care coverage was funded for nine thousand three hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$9,327.00).

Current Commission Membership

- 1) Carol Callaghan-Chair, Executive Director, T.E.A.C.H., Inc.
- 2) Mike Dunn-Vice Chair, Modoc County Board of Supervisors
- 3) Carol J. Harbaugh, Superintendent, County Office of Education
- 4) Alice Lybarger, Assistant Director of Alturas Early Head Start
- 5) Phillip J. Smith, Director of Health Services
- 6) Edward Richert, M.D.
- 7) Vacant

Modoc County Commission's Current Focus Areas

- 1) Early Child Development
- 2) Child Health and Wellness
- 3) Parent Education, Support, Training, and Advocacy

Identification of Challenges/Critical Lacks/Gaps/Opportunities

During 2001, the Commission was presented information about current challenges/critical lacks/gaps/opportunities in Modoc County through a concept paper prepared by Executive Director Donna Michelson, and input from individuals, organizations, and agencies in follow-up hearing and public meetings. This culminated in a workshop held August 15, 2001 in which ideas were tabulated for consideration in making revisions to the Commission's current strategic plan. The ideas generated from that workgroup were refined and some cases combined by a follow-up subgroup. They were then grouped under the Commission's current three focus/component areas, and presented to the public to prioritize for inclusion in the current strategic plan.

A. Early Child Development

I. Childcare subsidies:

- Childcare subsidies in all settings for working parents with middle income.
- Increased infant childcare availability (center based and home based) through increased compensation for infant care (this will allow providers to care for infants and still receive equal compensation)
- Infant provider recruitment and specialized infant provider training. Encourage childcare providers to acquaint themselves and/or educate themselves with cultural competency.

II. Special Needs:

- “Special Needs” training/support groups, etc., for families and/or professionals.
- Recruit and develop childcare providers for severely emotionally and/or physically disabled children 0-5 years of age. (Addresses special licensing issues).
- Provide Public Health Nurse for support/consultation to funded programs for children 0-5.

B. Children Health and Wellness

I. Health Care:

- Center-based child care for sick children 0-5.
- Dental care education, screening and treatment for mothers and their children 0-5.
- Increasing the percentage of pregnant women receiving care in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy.
- Transportation to doctors and other health related appointments for families and their children 0-5.
- Enhance the existing programs of initial health assessments and follow-up of children 0-5.
- Identify physical health defects and provide follow-up in children 0-5.
- Identify hearing and vision problems in children 0-5.
- Provide subsidized health insurance for qualified families of children 0-5.
- Provide money for uncovered medical needs for families of children 0-5.
- Provide subsidized for out-of-area medical expenses, travel costs and lost wages for families of children 0-5 as payer of last resort.
- Implement a genetic screening program for 25 plus disorders immediately after birth.

II. Mental Health:

- Screen and diagnose mental health problems and provide follow-up for families and their children 0-5.
- Develop professional/practical parental counseling programs.
- Enhance access to job training and self-esteem activities to enable increased opportunity to secure job placement and retention for families and parents of children 0-5.
- Develop parent recreation, education and self-improvement activities for families and their children 0-5.

C. Parent Education, Support, Training and Advocacy

- Develop programs to teach family financial budgeting skills (targeting recipients of W.I.C. and food stamp services amount others).
- English as a second language for interested parents and providers. Provide second language instruction for providers.
- Transportation to activities for daily living (grocery store/family outings socialization etc.)
- Identify and encourage early Native American skills and the skills of other ethnic groups within the community.
- Provide programs that focus and encourage respect and awareness for the cultural diversity that exists within Modoc County.
- Provide programs that focus and encourage respect and awareness for the Native American culture in general and specifically for our local Native Americans that reside within Modoc County.

- Rebuilding the fast disappearing Native American Culture (language, native foods, religion, etc.)
- Parenting skills (e.g. nutritional training) classes.
- Parent advocacy training and support (encourage parent participation in government policies/programs, etc.)
- Parent mentoring done by those who have practical experiences to share.
- Increased availability of new car seats at low or no cost to families and their children 0-5.
- Sensitivity training for professionals of social interactions with the people they serve.

Cares Initiative

Modoc County's Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (C.A.R.E.S.) is funded in part with Prop 10 funding to implement a two-year project to improve the quality and stability of early child education and care for children birth to 5 in Modoc County will cover the following components. Many of these are corollary to the ideas developed in the Prop 10 workgroup that was held August 15, 2001. This list is provided for information only.

1. Infant provider recruitment and specialized infant provider training.
2. Provide quality childcare by retaining and hiring qualified providers who are educated, trained and specialized.
3. English as a second language for interested parents and providers. Provide second language instructions for providers.
4. "Special Needs" trainings/support groups, etc., for families and/or professionals.
5. Provide programs that focus and encourage respect and awareness for the cultural diversity that exists in Modoc County.
6. Provide programs that focus and encourage respect and awareness for the Native American culture in general and specifically for our local Native Americans that reside in Modoc County.
7. "Special Needs" day care providers training and licensing.
8. Provide Public Health Nurse for support/consultation to funded programs for children 0-5.
9. Benefits package for day care providers (e.g. health/dental/vision) as an incentive to stay in the childcare field.
10. Parent education, support, training and advocacy.

Current Priorities in the Three Focus Areas

Based on the selections made by the public from the workgroup ideas, and the corollary Commission support for CARES, the following represent the Commission's current priorities in the focus areas:

A. Early Child Development

1. Childcare subsidies
2. "Special Needs" training/support groups, etc., for families and/or professionals.
3. C.A.R.E.S Initiative
4. Increased infant child care availability

B. Child Health and Wellness

1. Center-based child care for sick children 0-5
2. Mental Health

C. Parent Education, Support Training and Advocacy

Results and Goals to Be Achieved

The Commission seeks to integrate into a consumer-oriented and easily accessible system all the programs, services, and projects relating to early childhood development within Modoc County. The Commission's goal is to insure that each and every child in Modoc County is in an environment that is conducive to optimal development, and to assure that the parent/families have the first option to be the primary care giver and teacher for their 0-5 year old child. The Commission will solicit proposals for funding with identifiable, expectant results that coincide with these goals, and with a means of measuring the results.

Over Arching Principles to Be Followed in Modoc County Children and Families Commission Funding and Collaboration*

1. Inclusive Governance insuring that the diverse perspectives of all parents and families are considered.
2. Access for all to services via effective and culturally appropriate communication.
3. Equity assuring that all have an equal voice.
4. Result-based accountability included in planning, implementation and evaluation of programs.
5. Adherence to legislative and regulatory mandates in regard to ethnicity diverse populations and children with disabilities and special needs.

Additional Principle

All children 0-5 along with their parents/families will learn to be respectful and knowledgeable in all areas of diversity prior to school entrance (ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, linguistic differences, historically and under-represented groups, children with special disabilities, special needs, cultural competency).

Format for Developing Proposals Addressing These Priorities

1. Initial public meeting for all interested to learn evaluation components, fiscal management, confidentiality laws, and the format for submitting proposals.
2. Open workgroups to identify programs of concepts which advance the current priorities, and to address specific issues of confidentiality, time frames, partners/collaborators, policies/laws impacted, resources required, and results-based accountability.
3. Proposals for funding may be graded for consideration by a subcommittee of Commission members without conflict of interest in regard to the proposal.
4. Proposals accepted by the Commission will be presented in a public hearing.

Plans For Measuring Outcomes

Each funded Grantee will be required to file a Quarterly of Semi-Annual Grantee Performance Reporting Form to aid the Commission in the evaluation of the results of every indicator outlined in the Grantee Performance Evaluation Chart as submitted in the original proposal. The reporting interval of either Quarterly of Semi-Annual will be agreed upon between the Commission and each individual Grantee.

At each reporting period a narrative will also be made answering the following questions in a succinct manner:

1. Were there any systemic or infrastructure issues that decreased the effectiveness of the part of your program that was funded by MCCFC? If so, please identify and explain.
2. What other performance measures would help you identify the quality of change that your program has created or would like to create?
3. Telling the Proposition 10 "story" from you organizations viewpoint.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The goal of this Revised Strategic Plan is to define current priorities and guide in the steps toward program development and funding. The Commission will seek to be innovative and creative in utilizing Proposition 10 funding. This will include ongoing evaluations as programs develop and function with, the goals of maximizing the effectiveness of each program and seeking sustainability and possible leveraging with other programs and outside funding sources.